

Message Text

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21

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AMEMBASSY OOSOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0499

E.O. 1165-: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR

SUBJECT: PS COMMENTS ON PARIS MEETING OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

REF: (A) LISBON 0445 DTG 211625Z JAN 76, (B) PARIS 02023 (DTG
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RODOLFO CRESPO, MEMBER OF SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) DELEGATION TO
JAN 24-25 MEETING IN PARIS OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS,
MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO EMBOFF ON JAN 22:

--PS DELEGATION: PS WILL SEND FIVE-MAN DELEGATION TO PARIS,
WHICH IN ADDITION TO CRESPO, WILL INCLUDE: ANTONIO LOPES
CARDOSO; MANUEL ALEGRE; BERNADINO GOMES; AND ANTONIO BARRITO.
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LOPES CARDOSO AND NAMUEL ALEGRE, BOTH OF PS NATIONAL

SECRETARIAT, WILL BE CO-CHAIRMEN OF DELEGATION. CRESPO ATTRIBUTED NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO FACT THAT BOTH ARE LEADERS OF LEFT-WING OF PARTY.

--SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING: OUTCOME OF MEETING, IN TERMS OF COMMUNIQUE OR DECISIONS TAKEN, WAS LESS IMPORTANT TO MITTERAND THAN SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF MEETING AS PART OF MITTERAND'S EFFORT TO BUILD SOUTHERN EUROPEAN BLOCK WITH HIMSELF AT ITS HEAD (REF B). TO UNDERScore IMPORTANCE OF MEETING, MITTERAND HAD ASKED PS TO SEND TEN-MEMBER DELEGATION. ADDITION OF LOPES CARDOSO AND BARRETO TO ORIGINAL THREE-MEMBER PS DELEGATION WAS INTENDED TO ASSUAGE BRUISED FEELINGS OF FRENCH HOSTS OVER ABSENCE OF PS LEADER SOARES. IN ADDITION TO RELUCTANCE TO GIVE ADDED IMPORTANCE TO MEETING THROUGH LARGER DELEGATION, PS WAS UNWILLING TO SPEND MORE MONEY ON EVENT TO WHICH PARTY DID NOT ATTRIBUTE GREAT IMPORTANCE. CRESPO MADE POINT OF NOTING THAT LOPES CARDOSO, AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER, COULD FLY WITHOUT COST ON TAP.

--MITTERAND AT HELSINGOR: MITTERAND'S REMARKS AT HELSINGOR HAD RECEIVED MIXED REACTION. NORTHERN EUROPEANS, WITH SMALL COMMUNIST PARTIES, WERE NOT ATTRACTED TO MITTERAND'S ARGUMENTS. SOUTHERN EUROPEANS, WITH LARGE COMMUNIST PARTIES TO CONTEND WITH, WERE MORE SYMPATHETIC. THE PS WAS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS BUT MORE AND MORE INCLINED TO VIEW ITSELF IN "NORTHERN EUROPEAN TERMS." THE PS SAW THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AS A DECLINING POLITICAL FORCE. THE PS EXPECTED THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS TO CONFIRM THIS.
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